United Nations A/62/L.26

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
3 December 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 72
Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence

Botswana:* draft resolution

Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

Recalling the findings and recommendations of the independent inquiry commissioned by the Secretary-General, with the approval of the Security Council, into the actions of the United Nations during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda,[2]

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3] particularly its recognition that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential,

Recalling further its resolution 59/137 of 10 December 2004, in which it requested the Secretary-General to encourage relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to work with the Government of Rwanda to develop and implement programmes aimed at supporting vulnerable groups that continue to suffer from the effects of the 1994 genocide,

Recalling its resolution 60/225 of 23 December 2005, in which it urged Member States to develop educational programmes on the lessons of the genocide in Rwanda, and also requested the Secretary-General to establish a programme of outreach for Rwanda genocide victim remembrance and education, in order to prevent future acts of genocide,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See S/1999/1257.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

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Recognizing the numerous difficulties faced by survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly the orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence, who are poorer and more vulnerable as a result of the genocide, especially the many victims of sexual violence who have contracted HIV and have since either died or become seriously ill with AIDS,

Recognizing also the urging by the Security Council that the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 begin completion of its work in 2008 in accordance with its completion strategy,

Firmly convinced of the necessity of restoring the dignity of the survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, which would help to promote reconciliation and healing in Rwanda,

Commending the tremendous efforts of the Government and people of Rwanda and civil society organizations, as well as international efforts, to provide support for restoring the dignity of the survivors, including the allocation by the Government of Rwanda of 5 per cent of its national budget every year to support genocide survivors,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to encourage the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to implement resolution 59/137 expeditiously, inter alia, by providing assistance in the areas of education for orphans, medical care and treatment for victims of sexual violence, including HIV-positive victims, trauma and psychological counselling and skills training and microcredit programmes aimed at promoting self-sufficiency and alleviating poverty;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue the activities of the programme of outreach entitled "The Rwanda Genocide and the United Nations" aimed at Rwanda genocide victim remembrance and education, in order to help to prevent future acts of genocide;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the completion of the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in 2008 in accordance with its completion strategy, to urgently address, in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, the residual issues of the Tribunal, particularly witness and victim support and protection, capacity-building for the Rwandan judiciary, and the transfer of court documents and records to Rwanda which would contribute to genocide victim remembrance and education, and to report thereon to the General Assembly within six months from the date of the adoption of the present resolution;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation of the survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and the completion of the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in 2008, to take all necessary and practicable measures for the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence".